

Farakka National Highway (via Sultanpur, Johnpur, Gazipur, Buxar, Areah, Patna, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Shibganj) in the master plan of the Eighth Plan;

(d) if so, whether the government propose to give financial assistance for the construction of a bridge on the river Ganga in Monghyr under Iner-state and economic importance programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Constitutionally, the Government of India are primarily concerned only with roads declared as National Highways. The policy of the Government with regard to construction of bridges on the river Ganga from Haridwar to Bay of Bengal is that high level bridges will be provided at all points where National Highways cross the river Ganga.

(b) The total number of bridges on National Highways across the river Ganga constructed by the Central Government so far is six.

(c) Sultanpur-Jaunpur road is already forming part of NH 56. No other decision regarding declaration of any road as a National Highway has been taken pending finalisation of the Eighth Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of Rubber Footwear

2900. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope to increase the export of rubber footwears;

(b) if so, the strategies adopted therefor; and

(c) the target fixed for export of rubber footwears during Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Good scope exists to increase export of rubber footwears to various countries including West Europe and U.S.A.

The Government has allowed import of sophisticated plant and equipment at concessional rate of customs duty for the industry to modernise their production base and upgrade their technology for manufacture of modern rubber footwear as per specifications and demands in the overseas markets, particularly, in West Europe and U.S.A. Manufacture-exporters of rubber footwears/sportshoes can avail themselves of the benefit of DEEC Scheme under the current IMPEX Policy for supply for raw materials and components.

(c) No specific export target has been fixed for rubber footwear during the Eighth five Year Plan.

Propellent Factory in Warrangal

2901. SHRI DHARMABIKSHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to establish a propellent factory in Warrangal district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far in this regard; and

(c) the estimated cost and expected production of the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

Missile Warning Satellite

2902. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop Missile-Warning Satellite in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Facilities Provided to Weavers in Bihar

2903. SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the grants provided to Bihar from 1990 till date for promotion of handlooms and the amount thereof;

(b) the details of the raw material facilities and marketing facilities made available by the Union Government to weavers in Bihar during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (upto January 1992);

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey during the above period with regard to assessment to improve the economic conditions of the weavers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the government propose to start any new welfare scheme for the weavers in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) During 1990-91 the State of Bihar was given Central Assistance for the schemes of Handloom Development Projects (Rs. 8.32 lakhs), Share Capital Assistance to Apex Societies. (Rs. 5.00 lakhs), setting up of processing facilities (Rs. 23.51 lakhs), Janata Subsidy (Rs. 409.54 Lakhs). During the current year the state has been granted a sum of Rs. 158.18 lakhs on Janata Subsidy.

(b) Handloom weavers throughout the country could avail of assistance for meeting their raw material and marketing needs. The schemes in operation include the Janata Cloth Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme Share Assistance to Primaries and margin money for destitute weavers. Under the Janata Cloth Scheme a sum of Rs. 3.40 is paid as subsidy per sq. metre of cloth woven for cotton. Assistance under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme is linked to the performance of the handloom organisations. This assistance is to be utilised for improving marketing and infrastructural facilities of the concerned handloom organisations. The share Capital Assistance to primaries helps the concerned primary weavers cooperative societies to raise working Capital for purchase of raw material etc. Similarly the margin money for destitute weavers also helps those weavers to raise working capital. During 1990-91 a Special Package Scheme to help he riot hit weavers of Bhagalpur was launched. Assistance provided to the State of Bihar during the past 3 years is given below:-